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FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

February 13, 2022

Teepu Khawja
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief, Emergency Management
Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM)
Ministry of the Solicitor General

RE: Request for Assistance to aid in the response to the Ambassador Bridge blockade that resulted from Freedom Convoy Protests.

Dear Sir:

As you are aware, on Monday February 07, 2022, Freedom Convoy protesters began demonstrations in City of Windsor on Huron Church road at the base of the Ambassador Bridge and through their actions successfully managed to disrupt and halt all traffic across the bridge.

These actions have had serious consequences on the national economy and have interrupted international trade on an unprecedented level. Up to 14,000 commercial vehicles cross the Ambassador Bridge daily, transporting more than 400 million dollars of commercial goods. Disrupting the flow of these goods has resulted in automotive plants reducing production and in some cases idling entire plants.

Throughout the week, Windsor Police Services and their partners from the Ontario Provincial Police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, other municipal Police forces and Canada Border Services agency developed a response plan to restore order and re-open the border crossing and re-establish trade.

As of this morning, protesters have been cleared and Police have now regained control of Huron Church road and the entrances and exits of the Ambassador Bridge.

While the road is restored, it is essential to ensure the roadway and approach to the bridge remain open for international travel prior to re-opening the crossing. Part of accomplishing this plan

requires the acquisition and deployment of physical barricades. Police have managed to secure some of these assets, however; all local resources have been exhausted and more are required.

In addition to the physical assets noted above, the efforts in Windsor require human resources to transport and position these assets.

We are requesting the following from the province:

1. Locating and acquiring XXXX concrete jersey barriers
2. Securing transport of concrete barriers to the City of Windsor
3. # large vehicles such as snowplows, dump trucks or similar along with operators to be used as rolling barricades

Acquiring and deploying these assets reduces the chances of protesters successfully reoccupying Huron Church and disrupting international trade once more. Furthermore, deployment of additional barriers as part of the overall response plan will allow Policing assets currently on ground and operating in Windsor to be redeployed elsewhere to address the protests occurring in other areas of Ontario and Canada.

Thank you in advance for considering this request for assistance and I remain available at your convenience if you require any further information

Stephen Laforet, MPA, CMMIII, Fire Service Executive
Fire Chief/CEMC

c.c: PEOC
Christopher Pape, Emergency Management Ontario